

REMARKS AND ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 10 are pending, of which claim 1 is the sole independent claim. Claims 2, 4 and 6-9 are cancelled. Claims 1, 3 and 5 have been amended. Claim 10 has been added. Support for claim 10 is found at page 4, lines 20-23; page 9, lines 5-8; and page 10, lines 18-23.

Double Patenting Rejection of Claims 1-9

Applicants provisionally traverse the rejection and will deal with the issue at the time of allowance of the pending claims.

Response to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection of Claims 1-9

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over Langley *et al.* (U. S. Patent No. 5,744,152) or Sonnabend (U. S. Pat. No. 4,384,096) or Gassenmeier *et al.* (U. S. Pat. Appl. No. 2001/0031714 A1). Applicants traverse the rejection and have amended claims 1, 3 and 5 and have cancelled claims 2, 4 and 6-9. Langley *et al.* does not teach several limitations of the present claims: (1) the ionic strength limitation, (2) the alkali soluble polymer, and (3) the multi-staged emulsion polymer. Sonnabend does not teach the triggered release compositions, since it is silent regarding the ionic strength element. Sonnabend also does not teach alkali soluble multi-staged emulsion polymers. Gassenmeier *et al.* also does not teach several limitations of the present claims: (1) the ionic strength limitation, (2) the alkali soluble polymer, and (3) the multi-staged emulsion polymer. In addition, none of the references teaches that improved wet and mechanical strength could be obtained as a result of using a multi-stage emulsion polymer with a hard second stage (e.g., MMA/ALMA, see Ex. 2). None of the references suggests modifying its disclosure to produce the present invention. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the invention as presented herein is patentable over the prior art of record.

Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned to discuss any issues related to this application by telephone at (847) 649-3891.

Respectfully submitted,



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